

Criminalistic theory of a crime victim (criminalistic victimology)

Abstract

Presented dissertation deals with the crime victim as an object of forensic interest. It briefly introduces the science known as forensic victimology. This science is relatively new and is still looking for its place amongst related disciplines, especially general victimology and criminology.

Victim has a very important part in the process of investigation. Victim can participate on the genesis of the crime. It can leave traces on the crime scene or on a offender's body. It also has an important role as a carrier of the traces – material traces on victim's body, cloths or personal belongings and mental traces in the shape of memories in the victim's mind. Getting this informations from victim can be essential for a process of investigation. Although the victim is mostly motivated to cooperate with the investigators, the investigators must keep in mind that the position of the victim is very sensitive and approach it with tact and discretion.

In the first part of the dissertation the term victim is explained and further analyzed. The history of victimology is briefly presented from its early beginnings in 1940s to this days. The second part deals with a victim's role in an investigation. It is divided into four parts – victim's role in a crime reporting, victim as a carrier of forensic trails, victim as a originator of forensic traces and victim as a witness of a crime. Special attention is paid to an issue of secondary victimisation – the harm caused to the victim during the investigation and judicial proceeding. The new legislation reagrding crime victims is presented and the most important ways of providing help to crime victims are mentioned. Last part of the dissertation shows the specifics of the victims of certain crimes – rape, child abuse, property crimes and murder.